

He is a good ballplayer and one who will improve.

In the series beginning with Boston today the Sox have a chance to get out of sixth place, for they are but half a game from the world's champions. Four out of five from Washington materially boosted the South Siders, and they would have undoubtedly scored a clean sweep if Ed Walsh had not been used.

Jimmy Lavender pitched a one-hit game against the Giants yesterday. He hit three men, but did not issue a pass and fanned five. He was never in danger.

Now, one-hit games are infrequent occurrences, and Lavender does not have to repeat this performance to be considered one of the strongest cards of the Cub defense. It is time Lavender was becoming effective and having a break in luck. He has been toiling manfully for several seasons, but has always halted when on the point of arriving in stardom.

Usually he has been a whale of a pitcher for seven innings, then loses his effectiveness. On other occasions, when he has gone a hot pace through the game, his mates have failed miserably to use their bats. Jim has lost two 1-to-0 games this year and defeats like that are not disgraces.

In fact, his predilection for exploding in the seventh may be partially laid at the door of his mates. It is disheartening for a pitcher to go along at a fast pace, holding the opposition, and watch his mates idle with their bats, doing nothing to help in copping the game.

Lavender does not have to be any more effective than he has been in his last three or four games. That will insure him a regular turn in the box beside Puckard, Vaughn and probably Tom Seaton. Lavender can stand a good bit of work. He has so much stuff on the ball that it affects his control and he can acquire control only by being frequently used.

A winning record of six victories and two defeats on the eastern trip

has lifted the Cubs to fourth place and they are but one game from the third-place Giants. Three more games are slated on this expedition, all in Brooklyn, and a continuance of the ball played so far will mean a safe return to the North Side.

The Cubs have achieved this good record by a complete reversal in their defensive play. The pitching in every eastern game has been masterful and the fielders have settled to steady work. The infield combination, with two youngsters enrolled, works smoothly, and no outfield in the older league can cover more territory than the Tinker outfit.

No better batting was needed, but there has even been an increase in that department, notably in the cases of Mulligan and McCarthy. The former has been especially prominent in New York. He cracked three singles off Mathewson yesterday, which made his record for the last three games 10 hits out of 13 trips to the plate.

And winning a few games has heartened the entire team. It is playing real ball, the ball of which it is capable, and there is no reason to expect a sudden and disastrous break. The stuff has been there all season, but it is just beginning to show proper results.

Mitchell pitched better than Ragan, but breaks went to Braves. Magee saved game for Boston when he caught a liner off Mollwitz with his bare hand. Mollwitz and Egan each hit a triple and single.

Six of seven Dodger hits were for extra bases and seven Cardinal errors made soft victory for Brooklyn. Ames was forced to quit.

Niehoff's homer in 12th with two out enabled Phils to lick Pittsburgh. Rixey held Pirates to five hits, but passed eight.

Mogridge was knocked from box by Tigers. First time Yank hurler has been forced to quit in American league. Veach poled two triples and two singles. Cobb got a triple